Serial No. 10/681,634 Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 July 6, 2006

REMARKS

The present application includes pending claims 1-27, all of which have been rejected. The Applicant respectfully submits that the claims define patentable subject matter.

Claims 1-6, 8, 19, 20, 23, 24, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent Application Publication 2005/0054926 ("Lincoln"). Claims 7, 9, 10-18, 21, 22, 25, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lincoln in view of United States Patent No. 6,337,481 ("Stearns").

Lincoln was filed August 5, 2004, and claims priority benefit to provisional application 60/501,097, filed September 8, 2003. As detailed in the attached Declaration Under 35 U.S.C. § 1.131, and Declaration Under 35 U.S.C. § 1.132 In Support Of Declaration Under 35 U.S.C § 1.131, the Applicant invented the subject matter of the pending claims before the filing date of provisional application 60/501,097. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests that Lincoln be removed as prior art with respect to the claims of the present application. At least for this reason, pending claims 1-27 should be in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicants can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees, or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 07-0845.

Respectfully submitted,

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